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PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS.

GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, Patrickstreet, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, March 15th (by adjournment from the 1st), 1854,

JAMES GEORGE ROBERTSON, ESQ., Architect,
in the Chair.

Present, the following members :—

Robert Cane, Esq., M. D.	Rev. Philip Moore, R. C. C.
Rev. Thomas Dawson, A. M.	Thomas E. Murphy, Esq.
Abraham Denroche, Esq.	M. O'Donnell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.
John James, Esq., M.R.C.S.I.	J. R. Phayer, Esq.
John Maher, Esq.	John G. A. Prim, Esq.
Thomas B. McCreery, Esq.	

The following letter was read from T. L. Cooke, Esq., Parsonstown, proposing the Earl of Rosse :—

“A few days ago I had pleasure in forwarding to you a list of some gentlemen, clerical and lay, who wished me to propose them members of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society at its next meeting. An additional and very gratifying employment, of a similar nature, now devolves on me.

“I am honoured by being permitted to propose for insertion on our roll of members the distinguished name of the Right Hon. William Earl of Rosse, Knight of St. Patrick, Lord Lieutenant of the King's County, President of the Royal Society, M. R. I. A., &c., &c., &c.

“Writing as I am to the Secretary of a learned Society, it is needless to say that Lord Rosse's reputation is known all the world over; and that our country may be justly proud of having such a son. I therefore conclude by giving expression to the great satisfaction and honour I feel in proposing that the Earl of Rosse be admitted a member of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society.”

The Noble Earl, and the following new members, were then elected :—

George Garvey, Esq., J. P., Parsonstown; the Rev. John Parsons Wetherelt, A. B., Parsonstown; the Very Rev. John

Egan, V.G., P.P., Parsonstown; the Rev. Frederick William Wetherelt, A.B., Loughcrew Glebe, Oldcastle, county of Meath: proposed by T. L. Cooke, Esq.

Lieutenant-General Sir Jeffery Prendergast, 19, Brunswick-square, Brighton: proposed by John P. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Sir John Bernard Burke, Ulster King-of-Arms: proposed by Joseph Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Robert Hamilton Stubber, Esq., D.L., J.P., Moyne, Durrow; Patrick Keating, Esq., M.D., Callan; William Sim, Esq., Elgin Crescent, Kensington Park, Notting-hill, London: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

George Drevar Fottrell, Esq., 57, Lower Dominick-street, Dublin: proposed by William Dickson de Rythre, Esq.

Joseph Fisher, Esq., 2, Exchange-street, Waterford: proposed by James Palmer Graves, Esq.

Taylor T. Chapman, Esq., 8, Pearmount, Rathgar, Dublin; and Robert Chapman, 105, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin: proposed by Mr. John O'Daly.

Mr. Patrick M'Gragh, Millstreet, county of Cork: proposed by Mr. Michael Molony.

The Secretary then laid on the table the printed Transactions of the Society for 1852, now ready for delivery to the members, extending to one hundred and seventy-six pages, with numerous illustrations; he also announced that the Part for 1853 was in hands, and would shortly be ready.

The arrangements for expediting the issue of the Society's publications having been completed, the Secretary said he had much pleasure in laying on the table the first instalment for this year (1854), containing the Proceedings and Transactions of the Meeting of January last, extending to fifty-two pages, with three illustrations. Members had now an option of getting the Transactions either in this form, in which case they would receive the Proceedings and Transactions of each Meeting as soon as they could be printed, on paying 6s., or, where transmission by post was desired, 8s. 6d. (instead of 5s. as formerly), in advance, to cover the additional expense of making up and transmitting six books instead of one. Those, however, who preferred waiting till the end of the year would get their book as usual for the payment of 5s. He hoped that the members would at once signify their wishes to the Secretaries on this matter.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: "The Archæological Journal," No. 40.

By the Editor: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 5.

By the Author, Richard Caulfield, Esq., Cork: "Sigilla Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ Illustrata," Part 2.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 572 to 579, both inclusive.

By Miss M. Magrath, per Rev. P. Moore, R. C. C., Rosbercon: a six-pence of James II., another of Queen Anne, and a Bristol shilling.

By the Rev. M. Meagher, Tullagher, per same: a stone amulet, a gun-money six-pence of James II., and a brass weight of the standard of Ireland, *temp.* William III.

By the Rev. T. Doyle, Ramsgrange, per same: an impression from the ancient monastic counter-seal of Dunbrody Abbey, exhibiting an abbot bare-headed, and with pastoral staff in hand, seated under a canopy of tabernacle work, the inscription in black letter as follows:—*contrasigillum: domus: de: portu.* The seal seems to bear date about the early part of the reign of Henry the Seventh.

By Joseph Rogers, Esq., Rosbercon, Rev. James Graves, and Mr. Richard Preston: specimens of ancient tobacco pipes found at Rosbercon and Kilkenny.

By Dr. Ryan, Callan: a six-pence of Queen Elizabeth, turned up in a garden at the reere of Mill-street, Callan.

By James S. Blake, Esq., J. P., Ballynemona: the head of an ancient Irish pastoral staff of unique and most curious form. This interesting relic had been in Mr. Blake's family for a long time; nothing had, however, been handed down as to its previous history, or as to the church to which it had originally belonged. Mr. Blake had given it to his brother-in-law, Joseph Ronayne, Esq., of Cork, and by both gentlemen this most interesting remain of Irish antiquity had been deposited in the Museum. Mr. Graves intimated that he hoped at the next Meeting of the Society to be able to lay before the members some observations respecting this most important addition to their collection.

By Richard Hitchcock, Esq.: the proof-sheets of the Transactions for 1852, bound in two volumes.

By the same: "The Home Companion," Part 6, new series, and a wood engraving of the Hall of Ancient Irish Art in the Great Exhibition of 1853, mounted on card. Mr. Hitchcock accompanied his donation by the following observations:—

"In sending you for the Library the part of the 'Home Companion' (trifling as it may be) which contains the only engraving I have seen of the interior of the Hall of Irish Antiquities in the Great Exhibition of 1853, and an excellent article on Irish antiquities, I beg leave to accompany my very small present with a few observations on the engraving.

"The 'Athenæum,' of October 22, 1853, contains a very valuable article on the Museum of Irish Antiquities, then in the Exhibition, in which the

room containing them is thus described:—‘The apartment in which these antiquities are exhibited is on the south side of the building, and is of oblong form, about 24 yards long and 10 wide. A remarkable ancient architectural character has been imparted to it by the introduction of casts of portions of some of the most singular religious edifices in the country. The apartment is indeed, as it were, divided into a nave and chancel, by the great six-times-recessed chancel-arch of Tuam, with its strange Egyptian-like sculptures; and the east end is lighted by the three still more curiously ornamented round-headed windows from the same building. The three entrances are casts of curiously carved and inscribed doorways of ancient churches; and over the west door is inserted the circular window, assigned to the eighth century, from Rahan Church, figured in Petrie’s ‘Round Towers,’ p. 241.’ This is language of much interest to the antiquary, as well as to many others who have visited the Hall of Antiquities; and the brief description is a faithful outline of the architectural part of that building. Indeed, the great taste, good arrangement, and knowledge of the subject, displayed in the fitting up of the Museum of Irish Antiquities in the Great Exhibition of 1853, reflect very much credit on the Committee intrusted with the work.

“Let us now see how many of the features enumerated in the ‘Athenæum’ are presented to us in the ‘Home Companion’ engraving, which is extremely accurate, and cannot but possess a deep interest for all who have visited our Hall of Irish Antiquities last year. The sketch seems to have been taken from the inside of the end doorway leading from the Picture Gallery, the artist taking his position in the south-west corner of the room. The apartment is seen spanned by the noble ‘six-times-recessed chancel-arch of Tuam [Cathedral], with its strange Egyptian-like sculptures;’ nearer to us, to the left, we see the doorway of the church of Freshford, county of Kilkenny, originally erected in the seventh century, with its two lines of an ancient Irish inscription (see Petrie, pp. 282-5); while at the extreme end, in the distance, we see ‘the three still more curiously ornamented round-headed windows’ from Tuam Cathedral. Amongst the most prominent of the minor objects seen in the engraving are four of the Ogham stones which formed so important a component in the collection of Irish antiquities in the Exhibition, standing against the doorway of Freshford Church. The Ogham inscriptions may be said, in the words of the ‘Home Companion’ as to the Round Towers, to be ‘one of the many mysteries, which more or less prevail, in relation to the original character and condition of the Irish race.’ The little which has been written on them seems unsatisfactory to some of our antiquaries, and to have rather increased the difficulties attending the investigation of the subject. No doubt, various inferences will be drawn from the circumstance, which, whether accidental or otherwise, is certainly curious, of the whole of the collection of Ogham stones in the Exhibition having been placed standing against the doorway of Freshford Church and the chancel arch of Tuam Cathedral. Next to the four Ogham monuments depicted in the engraving, we see, in the recess, a little of one of the most tastefully and judiciously arranged cases of Irish antiquities in the Exhibition—that of Thomas L. Cooke, Esq., of Parsonstown. This is the horizontal case, of which only a small portion is seen, and must not be confounded with the vertical one over it, which belongs, I believe, to the Royal Irish Academy. Farther on,

in the distance, we see the Boiroimhe (?) Harp, the small stand supporting Her Majesty's magnificent Gold Torque, and the Shrine of St. Manchan. Passing our eye round to the right, we see the upright glass cases, containing some of the most precious relics in the Exhibition, or perhaps in the world—such as the Cross of Cong, the Bell of St. Patrick, the Book of Armagh, the Domnach Airgid, the Reliquary of St. Lachtin, the Shrine of St. Patrick's Hand, the Dunvegan Cup, the Tara Brooch, the Waxed Tablets found in a bog near Maghera, &c. The glass cases in the centre and around the room contain the gold and silver articles, consisting of torques, bracelets, brooches, rings, bullæ, boxes, discs, or crescent-shaped gold ornaments, &c. The other cases contain a very extensive series of silver, bronze, and enamelled works of great antiquity. Others again, as well as several trays which are placed round the apartment, contain a general collection of stone, iron, bronze, and other articles, mostly weapons, and many of them exceedingly curious specimens.¹ The principal objects not embraced by the engraving, are the beautiful circular window, assigned to the eighth century, from Rahan Church, King's County, figured in Dr. Petrie's 'Round Towers,' p. 241, and placed over the west entrance to the Antiquities Court, which itself is the western doorway of Maghera Church, county of Londonderry. A small portion of the third entrance appears to the left of the three round-headed windows from Tuam Cathedral. This is formed of the pillars of the chancel arch of Rahan Church, King's County. Opposite this doorway, but concealed by a portion of the Tuam chancel arch, is a fac-simile of the celebrated Knockmoy fresco, said to be the only one known in Ireland, an able paper on which has been lately read by the Rev. Dr. Todd before the Royal Irish Academy.

"Such are some of the features presented or suggested to our notice in the small engraving which we have been considering. They bring with them, at least to myself, many pleasing recollections connected with the treasures of the Antiquities Court of the Great Irish Exhibition of 1853.

"I have made some of the 'Relics of Antient Art,'² which have added so much to the nationality of our Exhibition last year, the subject of a few 'notes,' a portion of which I have communicated to the Society at its November meeting. In these notes I have endeavoured to single out whatever struck me as most remarkable amongst the precious 'relics' brought together in the Archæological Court of the Exhibition; but, I regret to say that, as yet, I have only been able to deal with a portion of the subject."

The Rev. Constantine Cosgrave, P.P., Keash, Ballymote, forwarded a communication drawing attention to the district of Dunaveeragh, in the county of Sligo, in one of the valleys of which, called Carrick-na-horan, stand a number of huge primeval monuments, of

¹ Engravings and descriptions of some of these most interesting articles, particularly the Shrine of St. Patrick's Hand, and of St. Manchan, two of the Gold Torques, and the Reliquary of St. Lachtin, will be found in the "Exhibition Expositor." The Reliquary of St.

Lachtin is fully described by Dr. Todd in the "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. v. pp. 461-4.

² This was the appropriate inscription, and one no doubt pregnant with meaning, which was placed over one of the entrances to the Antiquities Court.

which he was the first discoverer during the previous year. The most prominent of these is one known as "The Rocking Stones," which is massive beyond the generality of its kind; and, at a distance from it of about nine feet, is a cromleac of corresponding proportions. The superincumbent slab is in the usual sloping position, and possesses all the characteristics of the class of antiquities to which it belongs, although deeply marked by the decaying hand of time. The glens of this district, perhaps the most romantic and beautiful in Ireland, are particularly noted as being the passes through which the O'Donnells, Princes of Tirconnell, invariably marched their forces when on their way to the county of Clare, for the purpose of enforcing their supremacy over that and the adjoining territories. Here it was that Con O'Donnell had the celebrated encounter with Mac Dermott, Prince of Moylurg, in which he was deprived of the talismanic Cathach, or battler, which had the alleged privilege of insuring victory in every contest engaged in by its possessor; and which is now, by the kindness of Sir Richard O'Donnell, deposited in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. Here also occurred the celebrated conflict between Red Hugh O'Donnell's forces and those of Elizabeth, commanded by Sir Conyers Clifford, in which the latter were defeated and their commander slain. The spot where this event took place is indicated by a monument, which is kept in suitable repair by Viscount Lorton, a nobleman no less noted for his antiquarian taste than for his liberality to his tenantry, and the interest he takes in everything conducive to the welfare of his fellow-man.

Mr. Prim contributed the following resolution of the Corporation of Kilkenny on the subject of the abortive attempt at constructing a canal from that city to the tidal water of the Nore, which appeared to have escaped the notice of Mr. Watters when laying before the last Meeting of the Society some other resolutions of the body connected with the matter:—

"At an Assembly of the Mayor and Citizens, the 21st day of September, 1762—

"Resolved, that whatever Customs, Dutys, or Toles the Mayor and Citizens of the City of Kilkenny are or may be intituled to arising out of all weares goods or Merchandizes brought into said City from Bennetts-bridge or further or Carried thereout by water Carriage be & are hereby remitted for ten years."

The construction of the canal would appear to have been fully completed to Bennett's-bridge at this time, but it is not easy to appreciate the value of the sacrifice made by the Corporation in agreeing to charge no tolls on the traffic between that village and Kilkenny. In fact the canal was begun at the wrong end, as the works should obviously have been commenced at the tidal extremity in order to

make remunerative the portion first constructed, whilst the rest should be in progress. It would appear from tradition that a boat on *one* occasion plied upon the canal beyond Bennett's-bridge. It is said that under the provisions of an arrangement with Government at the time, the Canal Commissioners were to receive a certain sum in aid of the continuance of the undertaking as soon as they should have so far finished the works as that a boat loaded with merchandise could be drawn from Thomastown to Kilkenny; and the Commissioners obtained this Government advance by a stratagem, as, although there was no water for the boat to float upon from Thomastown to Bennett's-bridge, still, by yoking a number of horses to the vessel it was dragged along through the excavation made for the canal; and by this notable device the Commissioners were enabled to claim the fulfilment of the undertaking! The goods with which this boat was freighted consisted of skins for the tanyard of the father of the late Mr. Michael Comerford; and the safe arrival of the vessel and cargo at St. John's-bridge was made the subject of great public rejoicings in Kilkenny.

The following communication was read from William Hackett, Esq., Midleton:—

“As I entertain no doubt that the Society is strong in local archaeological delvers, I would take the liberty of suggesting that they might find an interesting field for investigation in the exploration of some of those ancient heaps of burned stones scattered through the country, known in the county of Cork as ‘Folách Fia;’ in Tipperary as ‘Deer Roasts;’ and in Ulster as ‘Giants’ Cinders.’ These heaps, which are to be found in all manner of places, and, I believe, in every county in Ireland, were evidently primeval ovens or cooking hearths. They usually consist of small stones, broken to the size of road-pavement; most of those which I have examined are so much burned as to be unfit for further use, but I have seen heaps apparently ready for use without any marks of fire. I had often remarked those heaps before I thought of exploring them; and the idea of doing so was first suggested by a circumstance which occurred one day when taking an antiquarian ramble with some friends: we happened to stop to examine a heap which some farm labourers were engaged in removing, and they called our attention to a particular spot—it was a pit, about four feet deep, and a foot and a half in diameter, sunk in the ground. The men had just thrown out the earth, and found at the bottom six circular flat stones, which had evidence of having been in contact with fire, but were as evidently intended for future use. It was obviously what would be at present in New Zealand called an oven, and corresponds exactly with Keating's description of the ancient Irish method of cooking, by baking meat between alternate layers of stone, in the same manner as still practised by the natives of New Zealand. Since then I have frequently explored heaps of those ‘Giants’ Cinders,’ which I found generally formed a kind of crescent-crater, embracing a pool of water. In several instances, by draining out the water, we came upon a wooden trough formed in the hollow of a large tree, the use of which manifestly was to boil water in,

by passing heated stones through it in rapid succession. I have seen one such trough, formed of boards and trenails, displaying no mean skill in carpentry. Another was made of marl, brought to a hardness equal to stone; it was in a crater of four feet diameter. I may here give you the names of those who have discovered such troughs, in the order of their discoveries:—Mr. Zachariah Hawkes, near Bandon, and I, here at Midleton, wrote in 1840, to our friend, Mr. John Windele, announcing our success in this respect. We knew nothing of each other's movements, but our letters reached Cork by the same post. The Rev. George E. Cotter soon after found a wooden trough and one of marl. Subsequently, Mr. George Martin, of Greenville, and myself, again lighted on wooden specimens, and Dr. Nagle, of Midleton, afterwards made a similar discovery. I believe Mr. Hawkes has found several at a much later period. The average dimensions of the troughs already found may be given as six feet long, two feet broad, and one foot three-quarters deep, except the hollowed trees, which are sometimes longer and narrower.

“In my neighbourhood these heaps of cinders are very numerous, particularly in places which were recently commons. In one such place I have counted no less than nineteen separate heaps, all close together. Mr. Windele and I visited a heap near Castlemartyr, which was in a bog, and we were curious to find out whether the stones had been heated with turf or with wood. The abundance of charcoal present proved that no turf had been used; perhaps, when the hunters who used this cooking place flourished, the bog did not exist. There is no record in Irish history of the first use of turf as fuel, but, probably, this did not occur until the country had been well thinned of trees, and nomade hunting must then have been on the decline; and yet I have seen evidence to convince me that this savage mode of cooking existed to a comparatively late period, as well as unerring proof of its having been extremely remote. On the lands of Kiladoyne, between Midleton and Cork, is a Druidical ring of two, or perhaps three circles, standing on a heap of cinders; and, what is at least equally singular, a section formed in making a road displays an old heap, over which is a layer of some two feet of earth—showing a probability of having been cultivated—and over this earth, another heap of cinders, which, however long it may have been raised, is still bare of earth. Vast quantities of charcoal are usually found in the heaps: indeed, I have never seen any cinders without charcoal. Several bags, even cart-loads of it may be easily filled from some large heaps. It is strange that we never find weapons or tools of any kind in the cinders. I have never heard of as much as a stone hammer having been turned up in them. The Rev. Mr. Cotter removed one crescent, nearly as large as a moderate-sized fort, but did not discover anything of the kind.

“The local members of the Society must be aware of the existence of many of these heaps in the county of Kilkenny. If my memory does not betray me, I observed a long time since, in the glen at Luke's Well, various heaps of cinders, and near several houses were large trunks of shattered oak, which I now think must have been troughs found in the cinders. At that time I knew nothing about these remains, and made no inquiry, but they attracted my attention so strongly, that when I afterwards saw the troughs found here, I at once identified them with the logs at Luke's Well. More recently, I saw some nearly erased heaps in a field

near Bennett's-bridge; but I suspect that these cinders are more rare in lime-stone districts than elsewhere, as the stones fit for the heating process should be such as would not be likely either to crumble into lime, or to vitrify. The names of places, such as Garryduff, Ballyduff, Cloghduff, originated in the cinder era. This is so well known here, that if you ask a countryman why is Garryduff so called, he will answer—'Yerra then, I don't know, if it isn't by reason of the Folach Fia that's all over it.' Or if he were not aware of the fact, and did not know the locality, he would say—'I suppose it's through the means of the Folach Fia that must be there.' I have never seen any printed work which mentions the cinders, except Gough's 'Camden,' which describes some heaps as then to be seen near the Curragh of Kildare.¹ However, the honour of having discovered the existence of the curious troughs, in connexion with those ancient cooking places, lies with the South Munster antiquaries."

The following communication was received from James Carruthers, Esq., Belfast:—

"4, *Glenfield-place, Belfast, 31st March, 1854.*

"SIR,—In the third Number of the 'Ulster Journal of Archæology' I inserted a portion of my Record of Coins found in Ireland, which gave much satisfaction to numismatists.

"By your kind permission I continue my list to the present time, and hope persons who are in possession of similar records will make them known through the valuable Transactions of your Society.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"JAMES CARRUTHERS.

"*To the Secretary of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society.*"

"1810.—In this year was discovered, in the county of Antrim, a baked clay vessel, large enough to contain three pints, filled with gun-money of JAMES II., all in fine condition, which were presented to the Belfast Academical Institution.

"1820.—Near the Giant's Causeway, county of Antrim, were found about three hundred Roman silver coins: twelve of them were sold in London for £20; the remainder were of small value, being much decomposed, with the exception of a denarius of MATIDIA which came into my possession.

"In this part of the county of Antrim many Spanish gold and silver coins and articles of plate have from time to time been discovered, arising from the circumstance of some ships of the Armada having been wrecked on the coast.

"1845.—Two denarii of PHILIP I. and a silver coin of MEINARDVS, Count of Tyrol, 1245, were found near the town of Antrim, county of Antrim.

"1846.—About 1000 silver coins of EDWARD III. were found at Rathkeal, county of Limerick; they fell into the hands of a pedlar, and were melted down as old silver.

¹ A short paper on the same subject was contributed by the Rev. James Graves, to the Proceedings of the Arch-

æological Institute, in July, 1845.—See "Archæological Journal," vol. ii. p. 384.—Eds.

"February, 1847.—In this month a parcel of silver coins of **ELIZABETH**, five of them having a countermark, was found at Glanmire, county of Cork.

"March, 1847.—About this time a small hoard of **ELIZABETH**'s silver coins was found near Riverstown, county of Cork.

"February, 1847.—About the end of this month a hoard of **JAMES II.**'s brass money was found at Rathcormack, county of Cork.

"July, 1847.—In this month, 40 coins of **HENRY VII.** and **VIII.**, and two pennies of **EDWARD IV.**, were found at Clogheen, county of Tipperary. The notices of the four last mentioned hoards were communicated to me by John Lindsay, Esq., Cork.

"1850.—A large parcel of gold Portugal coins was found near Macroom, county of Cork; at same time and place were discovered a few rude brass coins which bore some resemblance to ancient British. It is probable they were Phœnician.

"January, 1852.—At this time, in the county of Cork, a large parcel of old Spanish dollars was found.

"February 8, 1852.—Was found a gold Cufic coin, of the early part of the tenth century, in the county of Cork. It is in the cabinet of R. Sainthill, Esq., Cork.

"1850.—Found, in the county of Down, eight Roman coins.

"1853.—Was found at Caledon, county of Tyrone, a brass token of **JOHN. SPEARE. OF. CALLEDON. TANER.**

"1810.—When digging the foundation of Mr. M'Cracken's flax-spinning mill, in Donegal-street, on the site of a portion of the ancient fortifications of Belfast, a number of silver coins were found.

"1849.—A coin of **OFFA**, King of Mercia, was found near the site of a religious house in Armagh.

"1850.—This year several ounces of **ELIZABETH**'s silver coins were found near Tynan, county of Tyrone, and are now in the cabinet of Sir James Strong, Bart., Tynan Abbey.

"1848.—Two pennies of **OFFA**, King of Mercia, were discovered near Dundalk, county of Louth.

"1850.—A brass coin of **AUGUSTUS** was found in the county of Tyrone.

"1852.—A silver coin of **ROBERT BRUCE**, King of Scotland, was found near Armagh.

"1849.—A penny of **OFFA**, King of Mercia, was found near Londonderry.

"August, 1853.—A man engaged on the new works of the Limerick market dug out a small vessel containing about 90 silver coins of different sizes and value. The notices of this and the two following hoards were communicated to me by R. Hitchcock, Esq., Trinity College, Dublin.

"1853.—While some men were digging on the site of the new market,¹ Kilkenny, they discovered a jar containing about 500 silver coins, chiefly French, Austrian, Spanish, and Dutch; the number could not be exactly ascertained, as the hoard was almost all secreted as soon as discovered.

"August 11, 1853.—At this time 1600 small silver coins were found in a bog near Townmakeady, county of Galway; the appropriation of them is unknown.

¹ Perhaps Mr. Carruthers means by this name to designate the new shambles in King-street, lately converted

into a market for vegetables; the place, however, is not known as the new market.—Eds.

"1820.—A penny of HARTHACNVT was discovered somewhere in Ireland, and is now in the cabinet of Major Farmer, Armagh.

"1851.—Two Roman coins, one of the Emperor GORDIAN III., and the other of ANTONINUS PIUS, were found near Templemore, county of Tipperary.

"A silver coin of ELIZABETH, together with a sword and human skeleton of more than ordinary size, were found at Clonooney Castle, King's County.

"1850.—A penny of JOHN was found in Keady, county of Armagh.

"1849.—Found at Navan Rath, county of Armagh, a brass token of JAMES TAYLOR, ARMAGH.

"1853.—A brass token of JOHN . WHITTLE . IN . KILKENY . 1656, was discovered near Armagh.

"1853.—A very large parcel of silver coins was found near Ballycastle, county of Antrim; they were sold and distributed through the country without having been identified, with the exception of a half groat and penny of EDWARD I.

"1851.—A large hoard of silver coins was discovered near Newtownards, county of Down.

"April, 1852.—A few coins were found near Pettigoe. Mr. Barton, on whose property they were discovered, had them placed in the hands of Dr. Aquilla Smith, of Dublin, for examination. The lot consisted of fourteen coins; namely, nine groats and two half groats of ROBERT II. and three groats of DAVID II. of Scotland. What makes this hoard worthy of the notice of numismatists is that almost the whole are forgeries of a very peculiar kind, fabricated with a degree of ingenuity well calculated to impose on the rude and ignorant people of the fourteenth century. Each of the false groats consists of two very thin discs of silver, having interposed a piece of copper of somewhat smaller diameter, and much thicker than the silver, and they seem to have been struck between dies in the usual manner.—Extracted from Dr. Smith's account of these coins in the 'Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy,' vol. v. p. 324.

"1853.—This year a hoard of silver coins was found near Ballymoney, county of Antrim; it consisted of 360 ounces of the following sovereigns: EDWARD VI., MARY, ELIZABETH, JAMES I., CHARLES I., and CHARLES II.;—all were in poor condition, with the exception of those of CHARLES I. and II. The hoard included several hundred half-crowns and shillings of CHARLES I., some of which were rare and came into my possession; namely, an Aberystwith half-crown; a half-crown MM (R), not in Ruding or Hawkins; a half-crown nearly similar to Hawkins, No. 500; and in the find there were only four coins of CHARLES II., which were hammered half-crowns of his first mintage; they also are now in my cabinet.

"1853.—A parcel of silver coins was found in Island Magee, county of Antrim; only three of them were exhibited in Belfast, namely, two pennies of EDWARD I., minted at London and Canterbury, and one half-penny of the same King, struck at Waterford.

"1854.—An extraordinary discovery of an urn containing 1937 coins, together with 341 ounces of silver in pieces of various sizes, was made near Coleraine. The coins are Roman, in a perfect state of preservation, and, what is very singular, no two coins appear to bear the same superscription. The silver is composed of a large number of weighty ingots and ornamental pieces, supposed to have been used on armour for horses. There

are also several battle-axes marked with Roman characters. The whole are now in the possession of Mr. J. Gilmour, Coleraine."

Mr. Carruthers also forwarded drawings of a very curious antique in his possession, and of a somewhat similar instrument preserved in the cabinet of Mr. Barton, of Dungannon. A tolerably accurate engraving of the former is given in the "Dublin Penny Journal," vol. i. p. 324, where it is accompanied by a short description from the pen of Dr. Petrie. Mr. Carruthers' donation was accompanied by the following communication :—

"I send you a representation of a very curious bronze instrument, which came into my possession a few years ago; it was discovered in 1829 in the bog of Dunnavarney, in the townland of the same name, within two miles of Ballymoney, county of Antrim, and was purchased from the finder and presented to the late Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore, by his son.

"It is divided into three parts, which appear to have been joined by portions of oak closely inlaid with thin laminæ of brass, a small piece of which is in my possession; at one end is a double hook, and at the other a movable ring; the stem of the instrument is perforated at unequal distances with seven holes, through each of which passes a wire, terminated at the top by a bird, and at the bottom by a ring; the stem is hollow; the length of the bronze is one foot eleven inches.

"A short distance from this relic were found fragments of wooden vessels, one large bronze pin, about ten inches in length, and some specimens of stone hatchets.

"I had a representation of this interesting antique lithographed the full size, and widely circulated, in the hope of discovering its use, but without effect; there have been many opinions offered regarding it, but all at variance with each other. My idea is, that this antique was used either for divination—as, by a little sleight of hand, the birds could be moved to suit the design of the officiating priest—or for sacrificial purposes.

"I am glad to have given me an opportunity of bringing a notice of this mysterious antique before the members of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, as there is a probability that some of them may be able to discover what its use has been.

"Since I became possessed of this piece of antiquity, a second one has been discovered in the spring of 1851, in a bog in the townland of Lurgy, three miles from Dungannon, county of Tyrone, by a farmer named Robson, and is now in the cabinet of Mr. F. W. Barton, of Dungannon; it is almost similar to mine, with the exception of the rings and birds, and is in its original formation nearly perfect, and divided into three portions, which are joined by what appears to have been the original oak; it measures two feet five inches, and is deeply patinated, which indicates its extreme age."

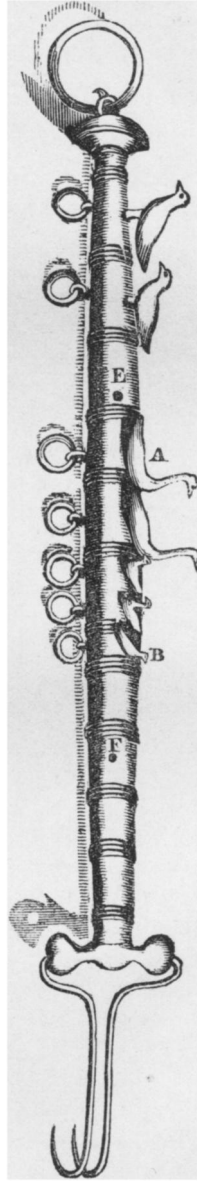
[By the kindness of Philip Dixon Hardy, Esq., of Sackville-street, Dublin, the Editors have been enabled to illustrate Mr. Carruthers' communication by means of the stereotype of the antique and its accompanying description to be found on the opposite page, which were originally supplied to the "Dublin Penny Journal."]

ANCIENT IRISH INSTRUMENT.

The very extraordinary piece of antiquity represented in the annexed wood-cut was found in a bog at Ballymoney, county of Antrim, and exhibited to the Royal Irish Academy by the Lord Bishop of Down, in March, 1829. Its material is that description of bronze of which all the ancient Irish weapons, &c. are composed, and its actual size is four times that of the representation. It is a tube, divided by joints at A and B into three parts, which, on separating were found to contain brass wire, in a zigzag form, a piece of which is represented in fig. G. This wire appears to have been originally elastic, but when found was in a state of considerable decomposition. At E and F are two holes, about one-eighth of an inch in diameter, and seem intended for rivets or pins to hold the instrument together. The birds move on loose pins, which pass through the tube, and on the other end are rings.

The material and style of workmanship of this singular instrument leave no doubt of its high antiquity. The Irish croziers of the sixth century are often ornamented with birds in this manner. But we confess ourselves totally unable to form even a rational conjecture as to its probable use, and should feel obliged to any antiquary who would throw light upon it.

P.



The following paper, contributed by Dr. Aquilla Smith, was then submitted to the Meeting.

ON THE COPPER COIN COMMONLY CALLED ST. PATRICK'S.

BY AQUILLA SMITH, ESQ., M.D., M.R.I.A.

Dr. Robert Cane, in his communication "On the Ormonde Coin and Confederate Money," published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, p. 442, has collected much valuable historical evidence respecting the Confederate Assembly of Kilkenny, and deduced from it inferences with regard to these coins, which he has endeavoured to support by very ingenious reasoning.

Before I attempt to controvert any of the arguments advanced by Dr. Cane, in reference to the coin commonly called St. Patrick's,¹ I shall trace the history of these pieces as far as I have been able to collect it from the several writers who have noticed them.

The first published account of the St. Patrick coin is given by Evelyn in his "Discourse of Medals, Antient and Modern:" folio, 1697. At page 133, pl. lxiv., the coin is accurately engraved, and briefly described as follows:—"Where a crown'd king is (as we picture *David*) playing on the *Harp*, over which the crown of *England*. FLOREAT. REX. Reverse, A mitred Bishop (or St. *Patrick*) holding a double cross, and standing between a *Church* and a *Serpent*, which he seems to drive away. QUIESCAT. PLEBS. is, I think, *Irish* coin." The coin here described may be supposed to be of silver, as it is placed among the silver medals of the reign of Charles the Second.

The next in date is Thoresby, in 1715, who mentions among the coins of the reign of Charles the Second, "An *Irish* (silver) Medal, with a crowned king playing upon a Harp, as K. *David* is represented, over which the Crown of *England*, FLOREAT. REX. Rev., St. *Patrick*, or a mitred Bishop with a double Cross. QUIESCAT. PLEBS." Here he refers to Evelyn, and adds, "These were also originally of Copper, and were currant, I presume, for *Halfpence* and *Farthings*, for they are of different Dimensions; both Sizes agree in the Figure of the King with a radiated Crown and Harp, and the Crown of *England* in a different Metal (viz. Brass upon the Copper) and FLOREAT. REX; but the Reverses are different, the larger have St.

¹ This designation was applied by Swift in the "Draper's Letters," No. iii., dated August 25, 1724, where he mentions "the small St. Patrick's coin which

passeth now for a farthing,—and the great St. Patrick's halfpenny."—Swift's works, vol. iv. p. 127. Faulkner, Dublin. Edit. 8vo, 1772.